




Memorandum

July 20, 2018

To: Presidio Visitors

From: Jean S. Fraser, Chief Executive Officer 

Subject: Written Determination under 36 CFR 1001.5: Closure of Crissy Field Avenue between McDowell Avenue and Lincoln Boulevard to Personal Vehicles

As the Chief Executive Officer of the Presidio Trust, under Presidio Trust Board Resolution 04-15, Authority of Executive Director to Establish Public Use Limits and Closures, **I am closing Crissy Field Avenue between McDowell Avenue and Lincoln Boulevard to personal vehicles.** Effective on July 20, 2018 the section of Crissy Field Avenue between McDowell Avenue and Lincoln Boulevard will be closed to personal vehicles but remain open to bicycles, pedestrians, and emergency vehicles.

Crissy Field Avenue is 0.15 mile in length, one-way westbound, with one westbound/uphill vehicle lane and one westbound/uphill bike lane. The roadway has an annual average daily traffic volume of 1,507 vehicles per day and is heavily used by pedestrians and cyclists. The annual average daily number of westbound cyclists is 807, and 407 pedestrians walk along the roadway on an average day. The width of the roadway varies from approximately 17.4 feet to 26.5 feet. Although there is considerable demand, downhill/eastbound cyclists are currently prohibited due to width constraints and the conflict with uphill/westbound vehicular traffic.

The closure is necessary to avoid conflict between visitor use activities, specifically, between motorists and cyclists. The closure will improve safety for park visitors traveling between two popular visitor destinations in the Presidio, Crissy Field and the Golden Gate Bridge, and will reduce traffic congestion in the park approaching the Golden Gate Bridge. The closure implements management responsibilities of the Trust as set forth in the Presidio Trust Management Plan (PTMP): “The Trust will pursue traffic safety improvements and look for ways to reduce traffic congestion. The Trust will consider means of simplifying or clarifying the Presidio’s road network, for example, by defining logical visitor routes and providing additional signage. The Trust may also consider closing some roads to auto traffic to provide for recreational use. The Trust will also take steps to reduce traffic on some roads.” PTMP at 49. The action also implements the Presidio Trails and Bikeways Master Plan preferred alternative: “Crissy Field Avenue will serve as a two-way multi-use path with no automobile traffic, subject to further Trust review and approval.” Presidio Trails and Bikeways Master Plan at 10.

The closure is neither of a nature nor magnitude that will result in a significant alteration in the public use pattern. The restriction will divert a relatively low volume of vehicles an additional 0.56 mile to McDowell Avenue and Lincoln Boulevard. Because the closure is not restricting access to any recreational or parking areas and will benefit many cyclists and pedestrians, the closure is not expected to be controversial. Emergency access will be allowed to continue.

Less restrictive measures have proven inadequate or are impractical. An uphill bike lane was striped in the roadway several years ago to address conflicts between uphill vehicles and uphill cyclists, but the measure failed to reduce the visitor use conflict between downhill cyclists and uphill motorists. A contraflow downhill bike lane in combination with an uphill vehicle lane and uphill bike lane has also been considered, but the measure cannot be accommodated without widening the road and adversely affecting cultural resources.

The public will be notified of the roadway closure with posted signage, information on the Trust's website, and targeted communication to nearby commercial tenants and residents. Roadway signage and flexible delineator posts will alert visitors of the closure.

In conclusion, the closure of Crissy Field Avenue is consistent with Trust resource management objectives, implements the Trust's management plans, and will address the transportation and public safety needs of Presidio visitors. Less restrictive measures, as noted above, will not suffice.